



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Tree Commission Minutes – Information only

Presenter: Peter Suhr

Please check appropriate box:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	X	Government Services 06.24.13
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development		City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
-----------------	-----	-----------	-----	--------------------------	----	-------------------------------------

If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

A duty of the Tree Commission is to advise and consult with the Government Services Committee. May 2013 meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments: *(please list)*

Tree Commission Minutes – May 2013

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only

For office use only: Agenda Item Number: 3.c

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013**

Members Present: Co-Chair Bill Bangs, Co-Chair Ron Ziegler, Valerie Blaine, Jon Duerr, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Ralph Grathoff, Phil Zavitz

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento, Peter Suhr, Nicole Wang

- 1. Langum Woods Walk-Through**
Canceled due to inclement weather.
- 2. Opening of Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance**
The meeting was convened by Co-Chair Bill Bangs at 7:10 pm.
- 3. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns**
No visitors present.
- 4. Minutes - Review and Approval**
Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 10, 2013, Tree Commission meeting as presented. Motion by Comm. Bangs second by Comm. Myers. Voice vote: unanimous; absent Comms. Grathoff and Zavitz; Motion carried at 7:15 pm.
- 5. Terms of Commissioners**
Comm. Zeigler cited City Code Chapter 12.20.040, *Tree Commission: establishment, composition, appointment of members*. It was noted that terms of Commissioners start on May 1 and "the Chairperson of the Tree Commission shall be elected by majority vote of the Tree Commission and shall be subject to re-election annually on May 1." Comms. Zeigler and Duerr nominated Comm. Bangs for a second term as Chairperson of the Tree Commission. Comm. Bangs inquired as to the need for a co-chairperson. City Code does not specify the requirement of having a co-chairperson, and Comm. Ziegler declined nomination for a second term as co-chair of the Tree Commission. Comm. Bangs was re-elected as Chairperson of the Tree Commission by acclamation at 7:20 pm.
- 6. Old Business**
 - A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan**
Comm. Myers emphasized the importance of moving forward with the development of the City's Forestry Plan as a high priority for the Tree Commission. The Commissioners agreed Phil Graf is a good resource and wanted to know how to best utilize his expertise. Mr. Suhr informed the Commissioners that Mr. Graf's services could be retained for certain

projects. Comm. Bangs suggested that small group meeting(s) be held in June with up to two Tree Commissioners along with members of the Public Services staff. Comms. Bangs and Myers will coordinate with Mr. Suhr via email. The goal of the small group meeting(s) will be to construct the framework for the direction of the Tree Commission.

Comm. Bangs suggested an additional Tree Commission meeting be held in June. Ms. Wang will check room availability for the second Thursday in June.

Comm. Ziegler asked if Phil Graf had provided consulting services for locating trees for spring and fall planting. Mr. Suhr confirmed that Mr. Graf had assisted with planning, species diversity and soil survey information relevant to the best locations for certain types of trees. Comm. Myers stated such information could be subject to interpretation absent a formal written Forestry Plan.

Mr. Suhr suggested that Mr. Graf be invited to the July Tree Commission meeting. The Commissioners would like the new mayor, Ray Rogina to attend the July meeting as well, and if possible, members of the City Council and Government Services Committee. Comm. Ziegler noted it would be beneficial to have Mr. Graf's information in writing and to utilize his services within the City's current budget. Mr. Suhr suggested it may be appropriate to start focusing on funding for the next fiscal year. Budgets are generally due January 1st, and fiscal year 2013/2014 is now fixed, but there may be small steps that can be taken now.

7. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Mr. Suhr reported spring planting is underway. A total of 710 trees will be planted as replacements for Ash trees. The new replacement trees are more diverse than ever before. Mr. Adesso informed the Commissioners that Mr. Graf had inspected all 710 planting sites and developed a guide on where to plant various types of trees. Mr. Adesso described how Mr. Graf utilized the City's tree database along with his professional knowledge, and entered additional data such as county soil map information, hydrology, and historical data to define what species should be planted at each site.

Comm. Blaine asked how many different species are included in the 710 new trees, and Mr. Suhr responded stating about 54 different species will be planted. Mr. Adesso reported spring planting will be completed in approximately two weeks. Additionally, Mr. Suhr reported the City Council approved the last 1,000 Ash trees for removal, and in 6 - 9 months approximately 400 Ash trees will remain in the City right-of-ways. Of the 400 remaining Ash trees some may be saved with treatment. Comm.

Ziegler noted having a contracted arborist will ultimately save the City money.

B. News or Concerns from Public Works

None.

C. Langum Woods Spring Clean-Up

The Spring clean-up was canceled due to inclement weather. Comm. Otto reported the new date for Langum Woods Spring clean-up is May 15, 2013. The clean-up is being coordinated with other school programs such as plant rescue, invasive plant removal, and “fragile fragments.” Comm. Otto stated the students really enjoy the projects, and she wanted them to have a good experience, and not clean-up in wet weather on May 9th.

8. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

No report.

B. Publicity Committee

Comm. Bangs commented there is good tree care and mulching information available in The Den and on the City’s website.

C. Arbor Day Committee

Comms. Bangs and Duerr stated the 2013 Arbor Day celebration was well attended.

9. Communications

A. Electric Division / Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for March and April 2013

Mr. Suhr reported trimming is ongoing for trees located under power lines.

B. Tree Species Requests Report for March 1, 2013 - April 30, 2013

The Commissioners reviewed the report, noting a request for a Kentucky Coffeetree. Ms. Wang noted residents often specify types of trees they do not want versus types of trees preferred.

10. Comments

A. Commissioners

Comm. Duerr commented on the success of the City’s Arbor Day celebration, and noted it was a very positive reflection on the City and community.

Comm. Bangs expressed his thanks to City staff for supporting Arbor Day.

Comm. Blaine commented on the Big Tree Program and how participants are having fun competing. Comm. Blaine hopes to get more residents

involved in measuring trees for the Illinois tree registry. A champion Cottonwood and a champion Red Oak have not yet been measured in Illinois. There is a 50" Red Oak which was measured in California and a 54" Hackberry at the Creekbend Nature Center in St. Charles.

Comm. Ziegler commented that the Arbor Day tree-planting at Richmond Intermediate School was very well done. The students enjoyed participating and it's great to get them involved.

Comm. Otto commented students will be able to submit digital photos of St. Charles trees for next year's Arbor Day.

B. Staff

No comments.

C. Visitors

None.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Duerr to adjourn meeting; second by Comm. Ziegler. Voice vote: unanimous; absent Comms. Grathoff and Zavitz. Motion carried at 8:00 pm.